

From: Harold Holderith
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:04am

Attached is a letter prepared by Microsoft which I have signed and which I wholeheartedly endorse.

Harold Holderith

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565 55th Av N.E.
Saint Petersburg, FL 33703

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to take a moment to express some of my views regarding this case. I am a user of Microsoft products and a general supporter of the company. I believe that it is an example of the successes that can be gained under the free enterprise system. Although I do not agree with every decision that Microsoft has made, I do believe that it is entitled to its position as the industry leader.

There will always be those that try to litigate away pieces of a company's market share. We just have to be careful to recognize when consumer protection is used as a veil to hide return on investment. I concede that Microsoft has tried to block entry to the market by independent vendors, and in that light we should reprimand Microsoft. I believe the settlement your office reached with Microsoft provides the common ground. It is fair, reasonable, and extensive. I do see the need for further action at the federal level.

The settlement will force Microsoft to be a more responsible industry leader while allowing it to retain its competitive advantage. It has agreed to change the way it licenses, markets, and develops its software, as well as the way it deals with those that design or promote non-Microsoft programs. It will disclose various protocols and interfaces within Windows for use by the competition, and will allow non-Microsoft programs to be promoted in Windows.

It appears to me that the necessary corrections have been made to address the issues that brought about the lawsuits. We must now allow the IT industry and the economy to move forward. This settlement is the tool. It has been three years and countless dollars in the making, and should be given a chance to work.

Sincerely,

Harold Holderith

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